Appendix XVIII.

[Vide item IX (6) at page 103 supra.]

PUBLIC WORKS AND LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

U.O. NOTE No. 2469 D/35-4, DATED 14TH OCTOBER 1935.

COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL.

With reference to the answers given to question No. 99 at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 7th August 1935, the following statement is laid on the table:—

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTION No. 99 ANSWERED ON 7TH AUGUST 1935

Formation of Irrigation Panchayats.

* 99 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many new irrigation panchayats have been started in each district after Collectors were given the power for organizing the same; and

(*b*) when they propose to start such panchayats in districts where they have not yet been started?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have not the information asked for, but have called for it.

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—"May I know whether the Government will place a copy of the report on the table of the House as soon as they get it?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—"I think I had better see the report first."

Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask whether, as soon as the report is received, the Government will direct that similar panchayats should be formed in districts where they do not now exist?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—"I cannot say without seeing the report."

Statement.

After the Collectors of districts were given the power to constitute irrigation panchayats, two new panchayats—one in the West Godavari district and another in the Cuddapah district—were formed. The reports received from Collectors indicate that it has not been possible

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to form more panchayats as the ryots are in most cases satisfied with the existing longstanding customary arrangements and are not anxious for any change. In some cases they are diffident or even actively opposed to any change, fearing that control may pass into the hands of a few influential people to the disadvantage of the ryots generally. In other cases again, faction operates to prevent the formation of panchayats. The Board of Revenue has asked Collectors to issue instructions to Revenue Divisional Officers and Tahsildars to take a personal interest in the matter, do propaganda work and explain to the ryots the advantages of the formation of panchayats. The Government do not consider that any further action is possible at this stage.

W. Scott Brown,
Secretary to Government.

To the Secretary, Legislative Council Office.

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS